

Testimony of Mountain Water Company
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Senate Bill 461
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Senate Natural Resource Committee

Mountain Water Company strongly supports SB 461. The bill is an important step in addressing the problems municipal water suppliers face in the development of their existing water rights. Changes in appropriation rights are commonly needed by municipal water purveyors. Typically, changes are needed for the purposes of: (1) changing the Place of Use (boundary of water service area), which is the subject of SB 461; or (2) changing the Point of Diversion (e.g., adding on another well to efficiently serve the expanded service area), which is an equally large problem, but not the subject of SB 461.

Passage of SB 461 will prevent the loss of any portion of Pre-1973 existing water rights that were put into use after 1973 in the perfection of the Pre-1973 existing water right held by a municipal water purveyor.

It must also be pointed out at that under the language of SB 461, a public utility serving a municipality would not be restricted to serving water only to that municipality under the provisions of this bill, but would also be allowed to serve a place of use within the municipal water service area which includes areas located outside the boundaries of the municipality, but still part of the same public water system.

For the reason stated above Mountain Water Company supports SB 461.